

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services - Registration & Stamps Department - Ante date stamps scandal - allegations against Sri Ch.Venkataratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) and certain registration officials of Zone-II and Zone-III - disciplinary proceedings initiated - Written Statement of defence submitted - Regular Enquiry conducted - Report submitted - Show cause notice Issued - Representation received - punishment of 20% cut in pension besides recovery of loss of Rs.11,76,687/- imposed - Orders - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.1165

Dated:19-11-2015

Read the following:

1. DIG, R&S (MV), O/o the C&IG, R&S, AP., Hyd., (Preliminary Enquiry Officer) Lr.No.29788/Enqy/95, dt:21-4-1997.
2. C&IG, R&S, AP., Hyd., Procs.No.Vig.2/25922/1995, dt:17-4-2010
3. Govt., Memo.No.1454/Vig.VI(1)/2010-8, dt:31-5-2010.
4. Enquiry Report of DIG, R&S, Guntur (REO) Lr.No.A1/132/2010-4, dt:13-3-2012.
5. Govt., Memo.No.1454/Vig.VI(1)/2010-36, dt:5-12-2013.
6. Representations of charged officer Sri Ch.Venkataratnam, former SR (Retd) dt:5-2-2014 & 22-2-2014.
7. Govt., Lr.No.1454/Vig.II(1)/2010-60, dt:31-7-2015.
8. APPSC Lr.No.779/DC&C/2/2015, dt:7-10-2015.

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ORDER:

Where as, in the reference 1st read above, it has been brought to the notice of Government that certain officials of Registration & Stamps Department in Zone-II & Zone-III were involved in ante dated stamps scandal in connection with the registration of documents executed on the stamps sold with ante dates without proper verification and thereby caused loss of Revenue to the State exchequer.

2. And whereas, on the directions of Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, the Preliminary Enquiry officer i.e., the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps (Market Value), Office of the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad had submitted the report stating that certain registration officials have registered documents executed on the stamps sold with ante dates without proper verification and thereby caused loss of Revenue to the State exchequer in the reference 1st read above.

3. Whereas, on the findings of Preliminary Enquiry Officer, the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad has framed the following charge against Sri Ch.Venkataratnam, former Sub Registrar (now Retired) among certain other Registration officials.

Charge:

That the said Sri Ch.Venkata Ratnam while working as SR, Patamata, Vijayawada Registration Dist., during the period from 31-5-1995 to 22-11-1995 registered Doct.Nos.110,414,436,437,456,463,504,505 to 510, 451, 434, 415,426,444, P.50/95, 411, 387, 403, 404, 528, 393, 394, 410, 518 of 1995 without verifying the date of purchase of stamps sold

Contd., 2

by Sri A.Ramachandra Rao, Sri A.Sudhakar Reddy, Sri B.B.Reddy, Sri T.K.Durga Rao, Sri Ch.Suryanarayana, Sri K.Srinivasa Rao, Stamp vendors at Guntur as required in IG of R&S Instructions vide Memo.No.5000/92, dt:26-7-1993 and 27-8-1993. In the Preliminary enquiry, it was prima-facie established that the stamp vendors have sold the stamps used for the above documents with ante dates to facilitate the parties to draft documents with ante dates in order to evade payment of stamp duty on the revised market values which have come into force w.e.f. 1-4-1995. An account of selling stamps with ante dates and Sri Ch.Venkata Ratnam registering the documents without verifying the date of selling of stamps, Govt., sustained a loss of revenue of Rs.11,44,937/-.

4. After receipt of Written Statement of Defence, the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad had appointed the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Guntur as Regular Enquiry Officer in the matter in the reference 2nd read above. In the reference 4th read above, the Regular Enquiry Officer submitted the report holding the charges held proved against Sri Ch.Venkataratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) among certain others. The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Guntur has forwarded the Regular Enquiry Officer report to Government for taking further action in the matter under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

5. Whereas, Government after examining the Regular Enquiry Officer report in the reference 4th read above, and after taking consideration of all the facts including heavy loss caused to State exchequer have provisionally decided to impose a punishment of 100% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss i.e., 11,76,687/- against Sri Ch.Venkataratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) for the charge held proved among certain others. Accordingly, a Show Cause Notice has been issued in the reference 5th read above with a direction to show cause as to why the proposed punishment should not be imposed against him.

6. In the reference 6th read above, the Charged Officer Sri Ch.Venkataratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) has submitted representation stating mainly among others that he had discharged the functions within the frame work of rules and stated that the recovery now proposed at the distance of 14 years is unjust and unreasonable without any documentary evidence as envisaged in Rule 3 (ii) (b) of Andhra Pradesh (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 and G.O.Ms.No.85, (F&P) (Fin.Wing Pen-I) Department. The Charged Officer has further stated that the departmental proceedings cannot be instituted against a Retired officer in respect of any event which took place more than four years before under Rule 9 (2) (b) of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

7. Government have examined the matter in light of the Regular Enquiry Officer report taking into consideration of the representation of the Charged Officer Sri Ch.Venkataratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) have decided to reduce the proposed punishment of 100% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.11,76,687/- to 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.11,76,687/- against Sri Ch.Venkataratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired). The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission have also agreed with the proposal of the department in the reference 8th read above.

8. Therefore, Government, hereby order to impose a punishment of 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.11,76,687/- against the Charged Officer Sri Ch.Venkatarantam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) for

registering documents executed on the stamps sold with ante dates without verification and thereby caused loss of Revenue to the State exchequer.

9. The Director & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad shall take necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

AJEYA KALLAM
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Director & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad

The Individual (w.e) (through the Director & Inspector General,
Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh., Hyderabad with a
request to serve the order and furnish the served copy with dated
acknowledgement to Government for record).

Copy to:

The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner,
Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Hyderabad.

The Principal Secretary,
Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Hyderabad.

The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps,
Vijayawada / Guntur.

The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Eluru.

The Central Bureau, Crime Investigation Department,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

SF/SC.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER